

A RESOLUTION requesting the Department of Transportation to conduct a feasibility study to identify potential corridors for the construction of a regional bypass in northwest Knox County.

WHEREAS, the 1991 Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) encourages the consideration of the efficiency of the nation's transportation system as it is effected by range growth in a twenty-year plan; and

WHEREAS, Federal Regulations (U.S. Department of Transportation, 23 CFR Part 450, October 28, 1993), require the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process to consider the "preservation of rights of way for construction of future transportation projects, including future transportation corridors"; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Energy is currently studying the future use of its land holdings in the Oak Ridge Reservation in Anderson and Roane counties under the Common Ground Process; and

WHEREAS, the Common Ground Process is to consider uses of the reservation lands for the benefits of the region; and

WHEREAS, the existing Interstate System in Knox County carries significantly high volumes of truck traffic through west Knoxville and Knox County; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee conducted a study in 1977 that indicated the potential success of a bypass route in northwest Knox County; and

WHEREAS, preliminary traffic forecasts indicate that a regional bypass may attract in excess of 30,000 vehicles per day; and

WHEREAS, a regional bypass located outside the Knoxville Urban Metropolitan Planning Organization area requires analysis by the Tennessee Department of Transportation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That the Department of Transportation is hereby directed to conduct a feasibility study to identify potential corridors between I-75 North and Interstate 40/75 in Knox County for the construction of the western leg of a regional by-pass in northwest Knox County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Department of Transportation shall conduct and complete such feasibility study no later than June 30, 1996, and shall report its findings and recommendations relative to such feasibility study to the General Assembly no later than January 1, 1997.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit certified copies of this resolution to the Commissioner of Transportation, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy and the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

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